

Message Text

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TAGS: ETRD, IZ, UR, US

SUBJECT: GOI TRADE POLICY

1. IN RECENT INTERVIEW GOI MINISTER OF TRADE HASSAN ALI OUTLINED THE PRINCIPLES OF IRAQ'S FOREIGN TRADE POLICY. AFTER REVIEWING BASIC BAATHIST OBJECTIVES, THE MINISTER ADDRESSED SUBJECT OF IRAQ'S TRADE RELATIONS WITH FOREIGN COUNTRIES. FOLLOWING ARE KEY POINTS:

A. SOVIET UNION. IRAQ ATTACHES A HIGH PRIORITY TO ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH SOCIALIST COUNTRIES IN GENERAL AND THE USSR IN PARTICULAR SINCE CONFLICTS WITH "IMPERIALIST POLICIES" RENDER COOPERATION BETWEEN IRAQ AND THE SOVIET UNION "A NECESSARY AND NATURAL MATTER".

B. WESTERN COUNTRIES. THE MINISTER STATED THAT IRAQ'S ATTITUDE TOWARD THE INDUSTRIAAL DEMOCRACIES IS DETERMINED BY THIER POLICIES VIS-A-VIS IRAQ. THERE ARE SOME WESTERN STATES, SUCH AS JAPAN, WITH WHOM IRAQ HAS NO SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCES AND IS THEREFORE EXPANDING
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TRADE LINKS. ON THE OTHER HAND, THERE ARE "HOSTILE IMPERIALIST STATES" WHOSE POLICIES ARE IN SHARP CONFLICT WITH THOSE OF IRAQ, SPECIFICALLY THE U.S. AN INCREASE IN COOPERATION WITH SUCH STATES IS NOT POSSIBLE UNLESS THERE IS A FUNDAMENTAL CHANGE IN THEIR POLICIES.

2. COMMENT: HASSAN ALI'S CHARACTERIZATION OF THE
U.S. AS A HOSTILE POWER IS ONE THAT HAS BEEN
MADE FREQUENTLY IN RECENT MONTHS BY TOP OFFICIALS.
IT REFLECTS THE GOI PUBLIC STANCE AGAINST EXPANSION OR
IMPROVEMENT AT THIS TIME OF RELATIONS WITH THE USG, A
POSE STRUCK AT THE HIGHEST LEVELS OF THE IRAQI GOVERNMENT.
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